



12

Power of art: Can creative activities help us stay young?

The world's population is aging. By 2030, one in eight people will be 65 or older and they can expect to live much longer.

But chronic disease will mean those last years may be spent coping with sickness and disability. Health costs are expected to soar. Alzheimer's alone will likely afflict 13.2 million Americans by the middle of the century. Scientists around the world are trying to find new and cheaper ways to help people stay well while growing old – and they're studying the therapeutic effects of art. In the fifth installment of the Power of Art series, Jane O'Brien explores the power of art and aging (March 18, 2013).

Read more at www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-21806196.

Auction Action

MAM, YAM and Russell museums report robust sales

The Treasure State was awash in art auctions this spring, and all posted more robust sales than last year. The largest was the C.M. Russell Museum's benefit, a three-day event that's the centerpiece of Western Art Week in Great Falls. The Missoula Art Museum opened the season in early February with its 41st annual benefit, and the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings hosted its 45th annual "Sapphire" affair in early March.



The Russell: R. Tom Gilleon's "Hair Apparent" sold for \$225,000.

Tom Gilleon had hoped to sell his painting, "Hair Apparent," for \$25,000; instead, the gavel went down at nine times that amount at \$225,000. "I had absolutely no idea there was that much interest," Gilleon told reporters.

March in Montana, held at the TownHouse Inn, also did well, with two auctions of art, antiques and collectibles grossing a record \$2.18 million – well over last year's yield of \$1.8 million.

Another event, the Western Masters Off the Wall live auction, grossed \$300,000, also bettering last year's total.

MAM: A celebration of contemporary artists

This year's 41st Benefit Art Auction, themed "Artists Color Our World," drew 425 people to the University Center Ballroom on Feb. 2.

The event's longtime auctioneer, Jerry Toner, told the *Missoulian* that bidders spanned a wide age range. "Young artists drew young patrons," he said.

Seventy-four pieces of art were sold during the live auction and the highest bid was \$7,000, paid for Kevin Red Star's "Thunderstorm." A luxury vacation package, donated by MAM patrons Pat and Jeff Aresty, also brought \$7,000.

Another 36 items were sold by silent auction. The "Buy it now!" option, which closed bidding at double the value, was employed by enthusiastic buyers on nearly half of the silent auction items.

Overall, 40 percent of the artworks sold, via live and silent bidding, went well over retail value. The "Fund-A-Dream" request for cash donations raised an additional \$18,000 to upgrade the museum's technology and computer systems. A pass-the-hat effort raised \$920 for the Hellgate High School Art Club's spring art excursion; club members served as art handlers for the auction.



MAM: Kevin Red Star's "Thunderstorm" fetched \$7,000. (Photo by Slikati)

All told, the auction raised more than \$110,000 for the museum. "It was a fantastic success and the number is a bump up from what we have gotten in past years," MAM Director Laura Millin told the *Missoulian*.

"Best of all," she added, "contemporary artists were celebrated and their art highly valued."

The Russell Auction: "A smashing success"

Great Falls was home to a cornucopia of art shows and sales March 14-17 during what's known as Western Art Week.

The largest of them all is "The

Russell," which benefits the C.M. Russell Museum. This year's trio of events, including a silent auction, quick finish and live auction, grossed about \$3.6 million, with the majority of that – about \$3.1 million – coming from Saturday's live auction at the Heritage Inn.

Joe Masterson, chairman of the museum's board, lauded it as a "smashing success." Last year's gross sales at the three events were about \$3.5 million.

Two works by Charles M. Russell brought top dollar, with the watercolor "High, Wide and Handsome" selling for \$550,000, and a letter by the artist going for \$300,000. Artist R.

YAM: "Great energy throughout the evening"

The Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings grossed more than \$320,000 in its 45th Annual Art Auction, a glittering "sapphire" anniversary celebration, and was projected to net over \$133,000 in support of the coming year's exhibitions and programs. Museum director Robyn Peterson says 166 works sold, and 151 artists participated in the March 2 gala, which attracted 408 attendees.

"There was great energy throughout the evening," she reports. Although the auction was not a record breaker, total art sales were 25 percent better than last year, and the gross was about 23 percent higher than 2012.

Sandra Dal Poggetto's painting, "American Fork #3," was the highest selling artwork, bringing \$5,600 in the live auction.



YAM: A blue glow suffused the sapphire-themed event.

PERCENT-FOR-ART PROGRAMS

Call for Artists

The Percent-for-Art Program recently opened two Requests for Qualifications (RFQ). One seeks a sculpture for an exterior site at the MSU-Animal BioSciences Building at Montana State University Bozeman (deadline is May 15). And the second seeks interior and exterior artworks for MSU Gaines Hall, also in Bozeman (deadline is July 17).

Quick Facts: Animal BioSciences Building

Who: U.S. residents
What: Request for artistic qualifications: Offer a resume and portfolio
When: Applications are open through May 15, 2013
Where: Exterior sculpture for permanent installation at a northwest site of the Animal Biosciences Building on the Montana State University Campus in Bozeman. Selection committee will consider a new commission or a sculpture ready to install and/or modify for the site.
How: Online application process via slideroom.com
How much: Art budget is \$30,500
Semi-finalist awards: \$500 for up to three artists
Submission deadline: 5 p.m. (MDT), Wednesday, May 15, 2013
For more information: art.mt.gov/artists/artists_percent.asp; to begin the artist application process log in to mt.slideroom.com.

Quick Facts: MSU Gaines Hall

Who: U.S. residents
What: Request for artistic qualifications: Offer a resume and portfolio



MSU Animal BioSciences Building (above) and Gaines Hall (right)



When: Applications open April 17-July 17, 2013
Where: Artwork(s) for single or multiple sites, both interior and exterior
How: Online application process via slideroom.com
How much: Art budget is \$76,400
Semi-finalist awards: \$1,200 for up to three artists
Submission deadline: 5 p.m. (MDT) Wednesday, July 17
For more information: art.mt.gov/artists/artists_percent.asp; to begin the artist application process log in to mt.slideroom.com.

Upcoming Percent-for-Art Program projects:

• The University of Montana: Chemistry Building and Law Building
For guidelines, visit art.mt.gov/artists/artists_percent.asp. Contact Kim Baraby Hurtle, Percent-for-Art director, for more information at khurtle@mt.gov or 406-444-6639.